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Date: 17 February 2010

Enquires to: Jenni Douglas-Todd

Direct line: 01962 814852

Our reference: PA162

Your reference: RS/SS/jd

Cllr Royston Smith
Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Southampton City Council
Civic Centre
Southampton
Hampshire
SO14 7LW

Dear Cllr Smith

Special Constables Proposal

At the Hampshire Police Authority meeting yesterday, Tuesday 16th February, as a result of your letters, we discussed the payment proposal for Special Constables' exemption from Council tax under Section 13A Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Chief Constable said that he would provide the details you have requested for Specials where they are happy for him to do so. The overriding discussion at the meeting, however, centred on the potential impact your proposals could have for policing across the two counties, and on Special Constables in particular.

11 members spoke on the proposal - 10 of them against the proposal and only 1 in favour. The concerns derived from the facts as they were presented. There are 423 Special Constables across the two counties and only 65 of them would qualify under your proposals. This would mean 358 Special Constables would not qualify. On Saturday during the policing of the Southampton/Portsmouth game there were 17 Specials on duty and 10 of those (the majority) lived outside of Southampton. This is an indication of the disparity members are seeking to avoid.

Placement of Specials is at the Chief Constable's discretion, so you could find that you have granted the exemption to a Special Constable who then ends up working outside of Southampton when the need arises. Would this be acceptable to you?

Chief Executive to the Police Authority
Jennifer Douglas-Todd

For the above reasons members found the proposals divisive and not in line with our strategic priority of Fairness and Equality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenni Douglas-Todd', written in a cursive style.

Jenni Douglas-Todd
Chief Executive
Hampshire Police Authority

CC: Members of Hampshire Police Authority
Chief Constable Alex Marshall

*Chief Executive to the Police Authority
Jennifer Douglas-Todd*